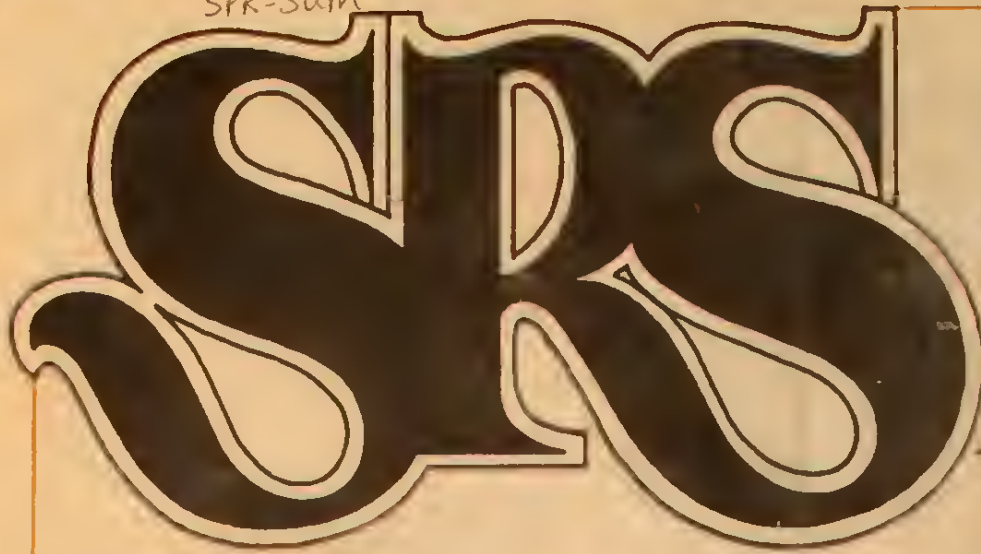


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MONTANA NEWS

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

NUMBER 2

SPRING-SUMMER, 1976

VOL. 5

STATE LIBRARY

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and other offices



Senior Citizens

8th Annual Governor's Conference on Aging, September 23 & 24
In Kalispell, Montana

see story on page 4

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STATE OF MONTANA

SRS NEWS
SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Thomas L. Judge..... Governor
Patrick E. Melby.....Acting Director

Circulation—9,200 Copies
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P. O. Box 1723
Helena, Montana 59601

Don't Forget

8th Annual

Governor's Conference
on Aging

September 23-24
KALISPELL, MONTANA

Register Now

State Conference on Handicapped
Prelude to White House Conclave

A \$10,752 grant to the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services will finance a state conference on the handicapped in November, according to Jack Carver, associate director of SRS and conference director.

Sen. Lee Metcalf, D-Montana, recently announced that the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare had approved the grant.

The state conference is a prelude to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, says Carver, who will also be a director of the White House Conference.

The purpose of both meetings is to begin assessing problems faced by individuals with mental or physical handicaps, to make people aware of the problem and to develop recommendations for legislation to enable the handicapped person to live a dignified, independent life that is integrated into the community.

Carver says that handicapped persons will be involved in all phases of the conferences. Half of those attending the state conference will be handicapped, and four of the eight delegates to the national conference will be handicapped.

Topics to be discussed at the state conference include the impact of research and applied technology; diagnosis, treatment and prevention of

handicapping conditions; problems of the multiple handicapped; problems of the minority handicapped; educational, recreational, cultural and employment opportunities; psychological attitudes of the handicapped and the general public toward their problems, and the elimination of barriers in architecture, transportation and communication.

The state conference will be in Billings November 3-4 and the national conference convenes in Washington, D.C. May 24-29, 1977.

SRS has been having some computer problems and, consequently, some of the address corrections and deletions we requested may not have been made. We apologize.

If your correction was not made, or if you wished to have your name dropped from the mailing list and this was not done, please let us know. Your responses will be accepted postage due through September 15, 1976.

susan kirkpatrick
editor



Patrick E. Melby, acting director, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Melby, SRS Acting Director, Is Servant of Many Masters

But Most Important Are the People

Patrick E. Melby was appointed May 24 by Gov. Thomas L. Judge to be acting director of the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The 32-year-old lawyer has taken the place of 62-year-old Theodore Carkulis, who retired after 38 year of state service, including 7 years as head of SRS.

Melby has served as staff attorney and, more recently, as deputy director for program planning in the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning where one of his responsibilities was to direct a project on ways to improve welfare and social services.

Melby was born July 4, 1944, in Belle Fourche, S.D., but moved to Missoula with his family when he was three.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Montana and is a graduate of the UM School of Law.

After law school graduation he worked with the Office of Executive Reorganization in Helena and then became staff attorney for its successor, the Office of Government Operations.

Melby's immediate attention in SRS is focusing on development of management and budget capabilities to try to most effectively allocate limited resources.

His job, Melby, believes, is to develop a management system based on predictable workloads that will deliver welfare and social services to those who need them when they need them.

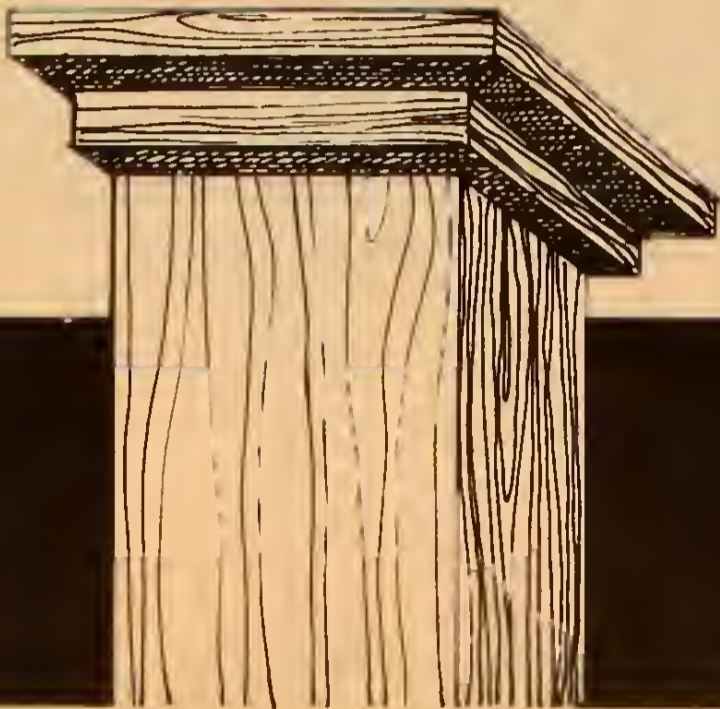
According to the new administrator, "I am in a position where I serve a lot of different masters. I'm an appointee of the governor and I must carry out his policies. I also serve the legislature and the taxpayers and advisory councils and public groups.

"But most important of all is serving the people whom the department and its programs are intended to serve."

8th Annual

Governor's Conference on Aging

Kalispell, Montana



September 1 is the deadline for registering to attend the Eighth Annual Governor's Conference on Aging.

The conference will take place September 23 and 24 in Kalispell. It will open with a general session at one o'clock the afternoon of the 23rd and will conclude about 2 p.m. the following day. Room reservations may be made for September 22 for those wishing to come early.

Conference and room registration forms are provided in this issue of the SRS NEWS.

The new convention center at the Outlaw Inn has been completed so all of the workshops, general sessions and other events will be held there instead of at the Elks Club as announced earlier, according to Walter Marshall, conference chairman and member of the staff of the Aging Services Bureau, Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Gov. Thomas L. Judge will be the speaker for the Thursday night banquet. Speaker for Friday's noon luncheon is still to be announced. Workshop topics and schedules also will be announced later.

All of the seven area aging services agency directors are expected to be available for consultation during the conference.

Bus transportation will be provided from other hotels and motels to the Outlaw Inn, says Marshall. He notes that all of the lodging places have offered to extend their check-out times to 2:30 Friday afternoon.

Marshall points out that a separate conference registration form is needed for each individual wishing to attend. A husband and wife, for example, are asked to each use a separate form.

More than one person, however, may register on the same form for the same room, and the \$18 deposit will hold the room no matter how many people will be occupying it.

The conference registration form should be mailed to:

Western Montana Area Agency on Aging
723 5th Avenue East
Kalispell, MT 59901.

The registration fee is \$13 a person. This includes all workshops, all general sessions, two coffee breaks, and an evening banquet on the 23rd, a noon banquet on the 24th and a conference badge and program.

All deposits and reservations for rooms should be sent to:

Outlaw Inn
Kalispell, MT 59901.

The conference is expected to draw about 550 people from throughout Montana.

8th
GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
ON AGING

Kalispell, Montana

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 1976

OUTLAW INN

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE: \$13.00

INCLUDES—2 BANQUETS, COFFEE BREAKS, CONFERENCE BADGE, PROGRAM, ADMISSION TO ALL WORKSHOPS

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO 8TH GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON AGING AND MAIL TO:
WESTERN MONTANA AREA AGENCY ON AGING, 723 5th Avenue East, Kalispell, Montana 59901
PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1976. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER AUGUST 15, 1976.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Name _____
Address _____
City or Town _____
Club or Organization You Represent _____ Self _____ Check One
Will Arrive by Private Car _____ Bus _____ Plane _____ Train _____ Check One
Approximate Time of Arrival _____ Date of Arrival _____
REGISTER ONLY ONE PERSON ON EACH FORM. IF HUSBAND AND/WIFE, PLEASE USE TWO FORMS.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE: \$13.00

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REGISTER ONLY ONE PERSON ON EACH FORM. IF HUSBAND AND/WIFE, PLEASE USE TWO FORMS.

ROOM RESERVATION APPLICATION

Send all Room Reservations to Outlaw Inn
Kalispell, Montana 59901

ROOM RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS FOR STANDARD ROOMS:

1. All Single Rooms at Conference Motels are \$18.00
2. All Double Rooms at Conference Motels are \$24.00
3. All Triple Rooms at Conference Motels are \$27.00
4. All Quadruple Rooms are \$30.00

WE HAVE ROOMS AT THE FOLLOWING:

OUTLAW INN 150 Rooms
RED LION 30 Rooms
DEVONSHIRE 20 Rooms
Enough for 550 people

You must send at least one night's deposit in order to reserve a room. \$18.00 would be sufficient for any room. The Outlaw rooms will be filled first and then the other motels will be used. It will be first come, first serve at the headquarters hotel. All reservations close as of 9/1/76. Checkout time on September 24, 1976, will be extended to 2:30 p.m. for the guests' convenience.

Name _____
Address _____ City or Town _____
How Will You Arrive? Car _____ Bus _____ Plane _____ Train _____ Check One
Approximate Time of Arrival _____ Date of Arrival _____
Club or Organization You Represent _____ Self _____ Check One
(List All Names of People Staying in Room When Making Motel Reservations. List Names on Additional Sheet of Paper if Necessary.)

State's Welfare Rolls Declined As Nation's Were on the Rise

Figures for 1975 Show Drastic Drop In Montana's AFDC Caseload

While figures released by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare show welfare on the rise throughout the nation, Montana's statistics for 1975 have shown a decline in the number of welfare recipients.

In Montana, the number of families receiving aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) decreased 14.9 per cent between January 1, 1974, and January 1, 1975, according to the Statistics and Research Bureau, Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Between March and September of 1975, Montana's caseload experienced a drop of about 1,000 cases, says Doug Egan, chief, SRS Statistics and Research Bureau.

The exact reasons are hard to pinpoint, say he and Theodore Carkulis, recently retired director of SRS, but they agree that stepped up quality control, improved caseload review and redetermination procedures and inter-departmental cooperation have had a lot to do with the caseload drop.

The number of children in Montana eligible for AFDC decreased 13 per cent from 16,044 a year ago to 13,959 this past December, SRS statistics show. The number of eligible adults in the state dropped 9 per cent over the same period from 5,834 to 5,306.

According to HEW nation-wide statistics, about 266,000 families with 479,000 members were added to the AFDC program in 1975. That gave the program a total of nearly 3.5 million families and more than 11.3 million individuals.

New welfare families averaged fewer than two members this past year while, in previous years, families averaged more than three, HEW statistics report.

While AFDC, Medicaid and state and local relief climbed 21.4 per cent across the nation last year (a record \$24.8 billion, up from \$20.4 billion

in 1974), Montana's overall expenditures for AFDC, Medicaid and state and local relief rose only 13.2 per cent, up to \$4,269,600.98 in December 1975 from \$3,705,554.13 in December 1974. The breakdown for December 1975 in Montana shows decreases in some areas, increases in others. The figures are: \$99,939 for AFDC, a decrease over the year of 16.5 per cent; \$2,842,641.58 for Medicaid, an increase of 24.7 per cent for the year; \$388,658.26 for the County Medical Program, an increase of 27.3 per cent; \$38,954.14 for general assistance, a decrease of 27.1 per cent, and \$4,408 for burials, a decrease of 35.7 per cent.

Nationwide, by contrast, all categories of assistance increased. Medicaid cost \$13.9 billion, up 23.7 per cent from 1974. General assistance cost state and local governments \$1.5 billion, an increase of 34 per cent. AFDC payments totaled \$824,559,000, up from \$721,142,000 the year before.

About 30,000 unemployed fathers joined the AFDC rolls throughout the nation in 1975, according to HEW.

Montana added the unemployed fathers segment of AFDC in July of 1975. Between that time and the end of the year, only about 25 unemployed fathers received AFDC, says Egan.

Unemployed fathers have the option of receiving either unemployment compensation or AFDC, whichever will provide more benefits for them and their family. Jack Carlson, administrator, SRS Economic Assistance Division, explains that the dollar amount may be less under AFDC, but AFDC offers Medicaid benefits unavailable under unemployment compensation.

By now the unemployed fathers segment has started to grow in Montana too. Egan says about 200 fathers without jobs now are enrolled in the program.

Crackdown on Welfare Fraud And Non-Payment of Support Helps to Reduce Caseloads

All public assistance applicants are warned that withholding or giving false information can lead to felony charges.

A recent welfare fraud conviction in Miles City concerning unreported employment and earnings by a mother collecting aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) has made public another reminder that suspected fraud and non-payment of child support are under continual investigation.

Although this particular case involved a repayment by the mother of less than \$300 and is not one of the biggest cases that has been prosecuted or is under investigation, the conviction received statewide publicity when Gov. Thomas L. Judge verbally reinforced the state's efforts to rid the welfare rolls of ineligible recipients.

The responsibility for investigating and prosecuting cases of welfare fraud and non-support lies with the Montana Department of Revenue in cooperation with the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Revenue has been joining in agreements with the counties to prosecute these cases through their county attorneys. By July 1, 1976, the Department of Revenue hopes to have cooperative agreements in all 56 counties.

In 1975 the Department of Revenue carried out about 150 fraud investigations. As of the middle of May this year, about 900 to 1,000 non-child-support cases have been investigated and some of these too have turned up fraud. In several instances prosecution took place. Knowledge that these things are being done have encouraged others to come forth, officials say.

The child support enforcement program also is administered by the Department of Revenue in cooperation with SRS and various county offices.

The support program tracks down parents who fall through on their agreements to pay child support causing the other parent or guardian to resort to AFDC.

According to the Department of Revenue, more than \$200,000 in non-support has been retrieved through the interaction of all the agencies since the program began in Montana in July of 1975. Between August and September alone, 86 of 106 AFDC households were found not to be receiving support due them.

In the recent Miles City case, the mother was given a six-months suspended sentence and was ordered to make restitution within six months or be placed in the county jail.

In this case, the mother had taken on employment which had made her ineligible for AFDC. However, she did not report her employment and earnings to the welfare department and she continued to receive the AFDC payments.

HEW has reported that about 4.2 per cent of Montana's recipients are ineligible and that about 9.2 per cent are receiving more aid than they are entitled to. Nationally, the ineligible rate is 5.2 per cent and the rate of overpayments is 13 per cent.

By the end of July, Montana should be well within compliance of ineligibles unless something drastic happens, states Ann Murray, SRS Quality Control Unit supervisor.

In a recent six-months period, she says, Montana's error rates dropped from 15.5 to 9.97 per cent ineligible and from 15.9 to 12.37 per cent overpayments. By the middle of May, Montana was experiencing an ineligible rate of only 1.5 per cent.

Better Methods

Closer contact and better communications with clients, plus a computerized redetermination system have helped greatly to eliminate ineligible recipients, according to Mrs. Murray. Every six months the computer automatically sends out redetermination packets with each assistance check. If a completed packet is not returned, that client's next check is not mailed out and a reviewer checks on that person's status.

As Mrs. Murray explains, this eliminates a person moving out of the state and working, or perhaps, collecting welfare elsewhere while a friend or relative picks up the person's assistance check which he or she continues to receive in Montana.

As Jack Carlson, administrator, SRS Economic Assistance Division, and the others have said time and again, the majority of the people on welfare do not want to be there. When those who do not deserve to receive assistance are prevented from doing so, those who really are in need may be better helped.

This is one of the most common types of fraud, according to officials of SRS and the Department of Revenue. Others include instances where a father pays child support but the mother fails to report it; cases where a mother continues to collect AFDC after eligible children are gone from the home, and cases where the father, reported to be gone, is actually still in the home.

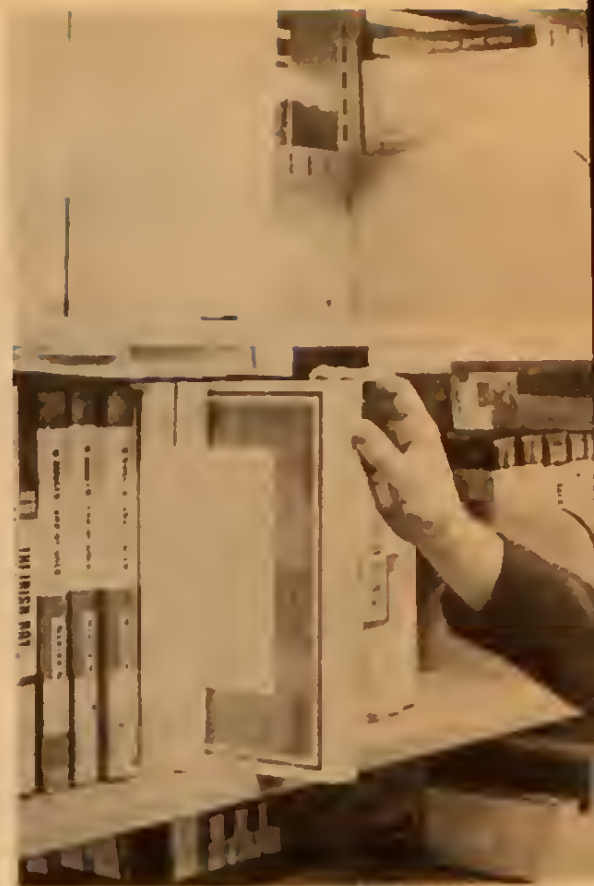
Most of the cases involve mothers because, as the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare points out, women continue to head most of the nation's welfare families.

Probably the most significant single means of removing ineligibles from the welfare rolls has been the SRS Quality Control Program in the county welfare offices, agree Carlson, and Doug Egan, chief, SRS Statistics and Research Bureau.

Although they mention that quality control still has not completely achieved its desired goal, it is heading in the right direction.



Darlene Tiensvold, state librarian for the blind and physically handicapped.



Rose Corey, readers' advisor

Recordings of the SRS NEWS Among State Library Aids For Handicapped Persons

"Listening to a tale told in the dark is one of the most ancient of man's entertainments."

—Moss Hart—ACT ONE

The SRS NEWS now is being tape recorded so that blind people and those with visual impairments too severe to see the large print can "read" our publication. Physically handicapped persons who are unable to hold the newspaper also may request recordings of the SRS NEWS.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur McKinney of Helena do the reading for the cassette recording of the SRS NEWS. The cassettes and cassette players are available free of charge—simply for the asking—for those certified to receive materials from the Montana State Library Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

A new expanse of experience awaits those who have not yet discovered the services available to eligible visually impaired and physically handicapped persons through the Montana State Library.

Large-print books, "talking" books and magazines in the form of records, cassette tapes and open reel tapes, along with all the equipment to use them, and assistance with other resources are available through the friendly, good-humored staff and volunteer force at the state library.

Just about anything a small public library would have is stocked at the state library. Special materials, such as publications in Braille, are

available by contract from the Utah Multi-State Center and State Library in Salt Lake City.

Any person who, because of a visual or physical handicap, is unable to read conventionally printed material, hold a book or turn a page is eligible for service. Even a hospitalized person, sighted and non-handicapped, who is temporarily disabled because of surgery, for example, may be eligible for library services while laid up.

Certification is necessary to use the library services. Certification may be done by a "competent authority" such as a doctor, nurse, optometrist, professional staff member of a hospital or institution, a librarian, a social worker or a clerical person.

No cost whatsoever is charged the library patron. Books, tapes, magazines and all the equipment are mailed to the borrower free of charge and postage paid. They all may be returned the same way.

All of the materials and equipment are provided by the federal government through the Library of Congress. As one of the regional libraries, Montana has only to provide the building and the staff, according to Tom Hurley, who is in charge of the machine inventory and the magazine section of the blind and physically handicapped division.



r in charge of large print books.



Tom Hurley, in charge of machine inventory and the magazine section, demonstrates one of the phonographs that patrons can borrow.

Hurley explains that publishers give the Library of Congress free copyrights to serve the blind and the physically handicapped, otherwise the cost of producing talking and cassette books would be prohibitive.

Large-print books are circulated through the local public libraries and the state library, says Darlene Tiensvold, state librarian for the blind and physically handicapped. "We are trying to encourage our patrons to use the public libraries in their own communities as well as our services in the state library," she says. This is one chance to get some of the blind and physically handicapped out of their homes and circulating in their communities.

Local libraries are one liaison between the state library and people who may need its services. The Visual Services Division of the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services is another.

The state library makes daily mailings to its borrowers. Once a person has been certified, an active file is kept on that person's reading interests, and materials are mailed on a regular basis. As Mrs. Tiensvold says, "This is so important because for many people the materials we send them are their only source of recreation."

About 1,900 individuals use the Division for Blind and Handicapped at the Montana State Library. About 130 convalescent homes, nursing homes and institutions also have residents who use the library services.

Alma Jacobs is the state librarian. "We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Jacobs as our director. She is very interested in our program," says Mrs. Tiensvold.



Nancy Battershell, student assistant, gets out the daily mailings.

Others on the staff for the Division of Blind and Physically Handicapped Services are: Rose Corey and Vicki Poore, readers' advisors; Nancy Battershell, student assistant, Hurley and Tiensvold.

Among the volunteers, in addition to the McKinnys, are: Ethel Bergseng, Helena, who helps with the mailings and the large-print books; Les Crowder, Helena, a Telephone Pioneer who repairs tapes; other members of the Telephone Pioneers, who repair talking book and cassette machines; Stan Salo of IBM in Helena, who records articles and books on demand; Jim Sibert, blind patron and president of the Montana Association for the Blind, Great Falls, who cleans tapes, and Dan Sidor, Helena, who currently is recording a book.



Pat Fagan, rehabilitation counselor, checks in with a work-study student employed by a Billings Safeway store.

Photo by Dan Geiger, Billings

One of Region's Top Counselors Works for SRS in Billings

Pat Fagan Now National Nominee

One of the region's most prestigious awards in rehabilitation counselling has been given to Pat Fagan, work-study coordinator employed in Billings School District 2 in conjunction with the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The Elkins Award for counselor of the year was presented to Fagan during the annual meeting of the Great Plains Region of the National Rehabilitation Association held in Sioux Falls in May. He was among about 2,000 counselors from a ten-state area eligible to be nominated for the award.

Fagan now is eligible, along with eight other regional winners, for the national counselor of the year award, which will be announced in September. This past October Fagan was named Montana's Elkins Counselor of the Year.

Dan Geiger, supervisor of the SRS Billings office, says Fagan was instrumental in developing a work-study program for special education students

in Billings. This became the model for a state-wide program. Special education students enrolled in work-study work at part-time jobs while attending high school.

Fagan has been work-study coordinator since September 1975. Before that he was a work-study counselor from 1969-1975 and a special education teacher from 1965-1969.

According to the Elkins Institute, Inc., which makes these awards, "The purpose of these presentations is to recognize devoted professional rehabilitation counselors whose efforts far exceed required standard performance and whose accomplishments are recognized by their peer professionals, supervisors and their community.

"To be eligible for an award the counselor must have an active caseload and be employed full time to counsel and otherwise assist handicapped persons toward a greater independence and self-fulfillment."

WIN Indian Project Funded

Montana's Work-Incentive (WIN) program, which is leading the region in putting public assistance recipients to work, has received funding approval for a special project to help American Indians in rural Montana prepare for and find employment on and off their reservation.

The announcement of funding comes from Leslie Kampf, WIN coordinator, Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Approval for the project has come from the National WIN office.

The Crow-Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in southcentral Montana is the site of the project.

Montana's WIN program has been going great guns this year and expects to have doubled its goal by the end of the fiscal year in September.

As Ms. Kampf enthusiastically states, since July 1, 1975, WIN has placed in employment 920 recipients of aid to families with dependent children (AFDC). The goal for the entire year, she says, is 600 some.

She adds that 464 AFDC assistance payments have been closed due to employment through WIN. An additional 166 recipients, she says, have completed the 30-day follow through and continue to receive partial AFDC assistance.

The objective of the new project, according to Kampf, is to provide both social and employment services conducive to securing satisfactory employment.

Those eligible include recipients of aid to families with dependent children, including AFDC unemployed fathers, and 16 to 18-year-old youths who have dropped out of school.

Training may be offered in the clerical and nursing fields and in "non-traditional" areas which will involve on-the-job training.

Classes in "Orientation to the World of Work" will teach such things as how to prepare for a job interview and general work habits.

Social services for WIN participants will include day care, transportation, home services and medical services.

Tribal members will be involved in the operation and guidance of the program and, as Ms. Kampf says, will be trained for future operation of their own employability development projects.

Two WIN teams are being established, according to Ms. Kampf. One will be at Lane Deer on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The other will be at Crow Agency on the Crow Reservation. The WIN teams will be staffed by an employment service interviewer and aides and a social worker and social service aides.

Vets Use Home Loans Most

Assistance in purchasing a home is the benefit used most by veterans, according to David Armstrong, administrator, Veterans Affairs Division, Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

More than nine million veterans have used their loan privileges since the original G.I. Bill went into effect in June 1944, says the Veterans Administration. The total amount of these loans is more than \$113 billion, of which the VA has guaranteed some \$68 billion.

Under the G.I. Loan Program, a veteran can obtain a loan for the purchase of a home, with the government guaranteeing 60 per cent of the loan up to a maximum of \$17,500.

Armstrong explains that eligible veterans generally decide to use their G.I. Loan benefits for several reasons:

- Interest rate is low (now 8½ per cent).
- Little or no down payment.
- Loan may be paid off in full at any time with interest charged only to the date payment is made.

Veterans have proved to be very good risks, with almost five million, or some 55 per cent of the total loans made in 30 years, already paid in full, according to VA statistics. Of the nine million loans

made, the Veterans Administration has been required to honor their guarantee and pay claims on only about 325,000 defaulted loans.


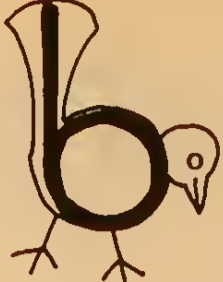


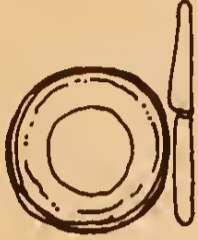

Eligible for G.I. Loans are veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict who served honorably for 90 days or more and those with 181 days or more since Feb. 1, 1955.

There is no deadline date for using entitlement as it remains good until actually used by each individual veteran.

Present federal laws also provide for veterans to be released from liability when they sell their G.I. homes and, in some instances, provide that a veteran can qualify for a second G.I. Loan.

Veterans desiring further information or assistance are urged by Armstrong to see their local veterans service officer. They are:

Billings	Joe Henderson	1245 N. 29th St.
Bozeman	Robert Ruhl	1st Nat'l Bank Bldg.
Butte	William Daley	4 West Park St.
Great Falls	Rudy Reilly	Rocky Mtn. Bldg.
	Fred Feirhurst	
Helena	Earl Vermillion	Horsky Block
Kalispell	Albert Miron	Ford Bldg.
Miles City	Bonnie Ogg	70B Palmer
Missoula	William Heikkinen	B1B Burlington
Wolf Point	Michael Wolf	County Courthouse

		bird b	b b
		cup c	c c
		dish d	d d

Lauback Reading Method Being Used for DD Persons

A method originally designed to help illiterate people in foreign countries learn to read now is being used in Montana to teach developmentally disabled adults and children in special education classes.

The Laubach Reading Method places teacher and student on a one-to-one basis. The essence of the procedure is the use of pictures with letters superimposed on them.

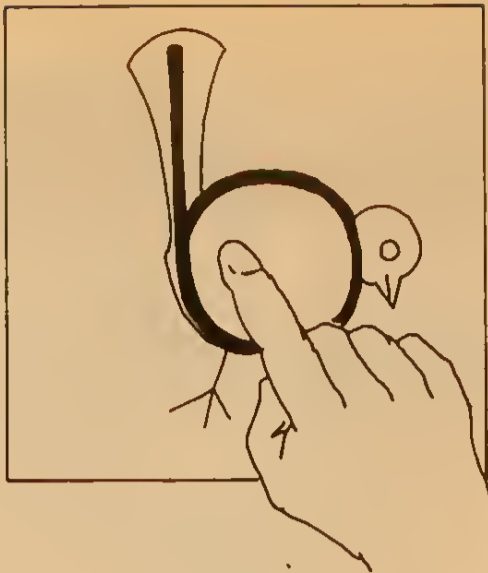
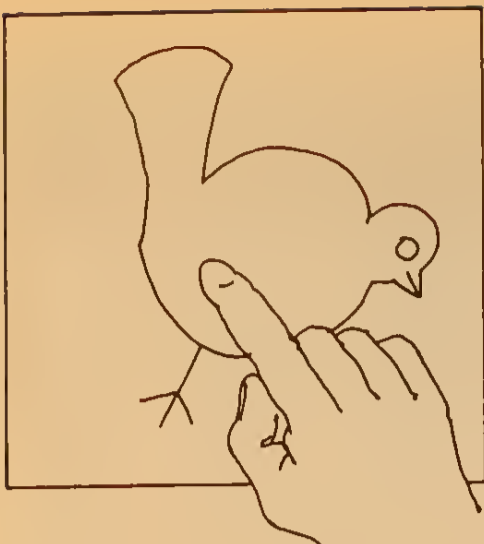
"This memory aid appeals to the learner who proceeds from what he knows (the sound for the object pictured) to what he needs to learn (the written word)," according to Dolores Virga, field representative, Montana Association for Retarded Citizens.

"The lesson format," she continues, "guarantees success by eliciting the correct response from the student and reinforcing it. The materials are semiprogrammed. Each lesson includes phonics, reading sight words, comprehension checks, structural analysis and vocabulary

development. Writing lessons reinforce reading concepts and develop spelling skills."

Ms. Virga goes on to say, "Some handicapped persons learn very slowly and perhaps never will reach a high level of reading. However, the reading skills they do acquire help them in daily living where a certain amount of reading is necessary, for instance, in the area of shopping—to read labels, prices and sizes; in reading bus schedules or schedules of cultural events or the daily newspaper. And not forgetting," she adds, "the enrichment of being able to write and read letters and to communicate and share with friends through the written word."

The Laubach Reading Method is being used throughout the state to teach all sorts of non-readers and poor readers, in addition to the developmentally disabled. It has been used mainly to teach adults but recently it has been successfully used in public schools for children with special reading problems and for children in special educa-



Teacher: This is a bird with a long tail and a round body. Say BIRD.

Student: BIRD.

Teacher: This (letter) looks like a bird with a long tail and a round body. Say BIRD.

Student: BIRD.

Teacher: This is the word BIRD. Read BIRD.

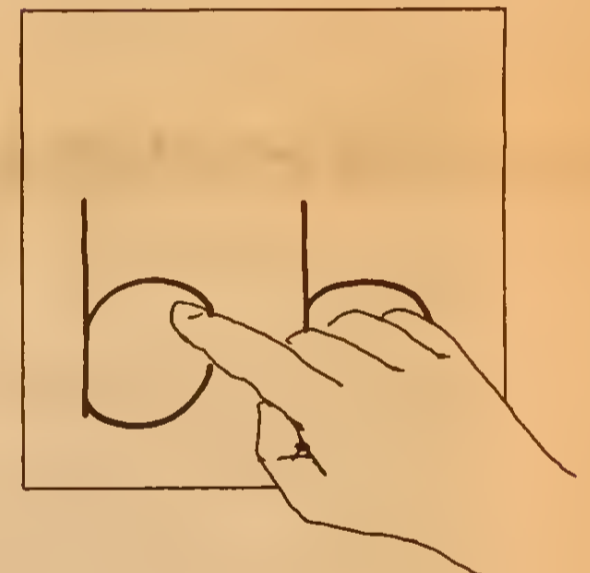
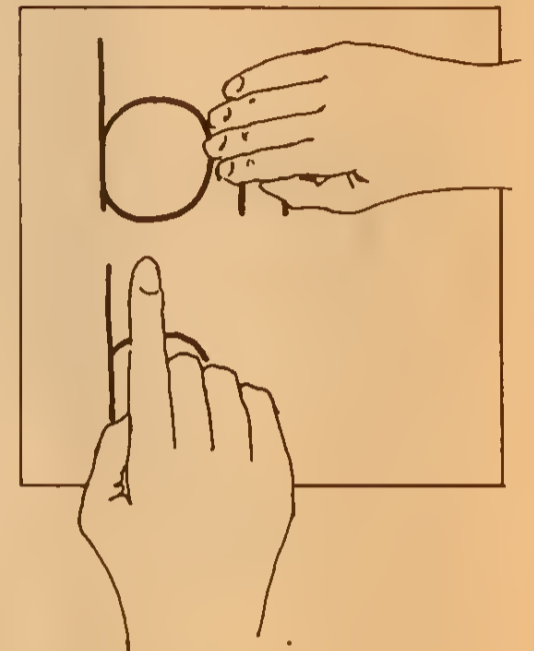
Student: BIRD.

Teacher: Bird begins with the sound "b". Say b.

Student: b

Teacher: Every letter has a sound and also a name. The name of this letter is "b". Say b.

Student: b



tion classes, according to Ms. Virga.

Since November 1975, four teacher-tutors have conducted four workshops in Montana to train volunteer tutors. The workshops are made possible by a grant from the Bicentennial Administration.

Persons interested in training to become a Laubach tutor or who know of someone who needs reading assistance may contact Dr. Lloyd Bender of Voluntary Adult Literacy Training (VALT), 2014 South Tracy, Bozeman, MT 59715, Phone: 587-0069.

Dr. Frank Laubach, who in 1955 founded the reading method named after him, felt a compelling concern for poor readers and people unable to read at all.

He said, "You think it is a pity they cannot read, but the real tragedy is that they have no voice in public affairs, they never vote, they are never represented in any conference, they are the silent victims, the forgotten men . . . It is a human weakness not to become aware of suffering unless

we hear a cry."

Things we take for granted are giant barriers to those who cannot read. They cannot:

- read want ads for jobs, work contracts or labor laws.
- read housing or other legal agreements.
- read labels on food items, let alone the cooking directions.
- read directions—or warnings—on medicine bottles and other danger-laden containers.
- "read up" on a particular farming or housing or health problem.
- participate effectively in political and judicial processes because they cannot read voting ballots or laws or printed information on the machinery of government.
- obtain information, entertainment or inspiration from books, magazines and newspapers.
- read this newspaper to know that people care and want to help.



Roscoe "Pete" Peterson, SRS purchasing supplies supervisor, runs welfare and rehabilitation checks through the postage machine.

SRS Mailing Operation Gears Up at Month's End

Getting out the monthly checks and eligibility information to recipients of SRS services is a full scale, fast forward operation.

In March, for instance, nearly 20,000 pieces of mail were handled by the mail room at state headquarters in the end-of-the-month run for clients and recipients. That was just an ordinary batch of mail—typical of what hits the end of every month.

It included monthly assistance checks, rehabilitation checks, redetermination packets, payments to providers and medical I.D. cards. In addition, about 16,000 examination of benefits packets are mailed between the first and the tenth of each month.

Assistance checks are mailed in time for them to be received by the recipients on the first of each month.



A mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service loads the SRS monthly checks.

Information Unit
Montana Social &
Rehabilitation Services
P. O. Box 1723
Helena, Montana 59601



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